

In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A ~~roller for a roller assembly~~ for transporting a sheet material such as paper through a nip, the roller assembly comprising:

(a) a first shaft; and

(b) ~~a first~~ at least one tire mounted relative to the shaft, ~~the first~~ each tire being adapted to contact an opposed surface to create the nip therebetween and the shaft being spaced from the opposed surface a distance that is less than the diameter of the tires to create an off set distance, each tire including:

(i) ~~an elastically deformable~~ a compliant core affixed relative to the shaft for rotation with the shaft, the compliant core continuously deforming during rotation to accommodate the offset distance; and

(ii) a non-compliant outer layer connected to the core for rotation with the core, the circumference and diameter of the outer layer remaining substantially constant as the outer layer rotates against the opposed surface to create the nip.

2. **(Please Cancel)**

3. **(Please Cancel)**

4. **(Currently Amended)** The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the ~~elastically deformable~~ compliant core comprises a an open cell cellular structure.

5. **(Please Cancel)**

6. **(Original Claim)** The roller assembly of Claim 4, wherein the cellular structure comprises polyurethane.

7. **(Please Cancel)**

8. **(Original Claim)** The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer has a durometer less than 60 Shore A.

9. **(Original Claim)** The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer has a durometer greater than 35 Shore A.

10. **(Original Claim)** The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer has a durometer greater than 35 Shore A and less than 60 Shore A.

11. **(Original Claim)** The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer includes a metal tube.

12. **(Previously Amended)** The roller assembly of Claim 11, comprising a layer of coefficient of friction enhancing material on the metal tube.

13. **(Original Claim)** The roller assembly of Claim 1, wherein the non-compliant layer comprises a plastic tube.

14. **(Previously Amended)** The roller assembly of Claim 13, comprising a layer of coefficient of friction enhancing material on the plastic tube.

15. - 25. **(Please Cancel)**

26 **(New)** The roller assembly as set out in Claim 1 including a second shaft spaced from and parallel to the first shaft and a set of second tires mounted to the second shaft engaging each of the first tires to form nips therebetween and the distance from the first shaft being to the nip between the first and second tires being less than the radius of the first tire thereby creating the offset distance.